

Freeway tops panel agenda

By Doug Murphy
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Discussion on the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway highlights next week's meeting of the Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee.

The meeting will be held Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. in

the Ahwatukee Foothills Senior Center, 5051 E. Elliot Road.

On the agenda is a discussion of the Loop 202, including design, location, traffic and need. The committee will also discuss establishing a relationship with the Tempe Union and Kyrene Elementary school dis-

tricts regarding freeway disruptions.

The committee acts as an advisory body to the city's Planning Commission, which in turn advises the City Council on planning and zoning issues.

Plans for the Loop 202 have been on the books **more Panel, see page 5**

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since 1988, running east to west along Pecos Road from Interstate 10 by Ahwatukee Foothills, through a corner of South Mountain Park and reconnecting with I-10 in the West Valley somewhere between 51st Avenue and the Loop 101/I-10 interchange.

Four years ago the Arizona Department of Transportation began a study process to update the route.

In Ahwatukee Foothills, a preliminary estimate shows 255 homes would have to be demolished to make way for the freeway if it were built above ground. If the freeway were built below ground level to reduce noise, roughly 695 homes would have to be demolished.

A decision on the western portion of the freeway is expected in the next few weeks. A decision on where the eastern portion of the freeway will be built is expected sometime later this year.

Also on the agenda of the planning committee is a request to rezone 35 acres at 50th Street and Chandler Boulevard for a mixed-use development called Parkhouse 50, made up of condominiums, offices and retail space.

The initial plans call for a gourmet market on the corner of 50th Street and Chandler Boulevard and six, eight-story buildings, connected by plazas and open space. The development would include 550 condominiums along with 590,000 square feet of retail and commercial space.

The meeting is open to the public.
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